

DEATH PENALTY FOR ERICKA AND BOBBY--

by Jan Von Flatern

LIBERATION News Service

They are trying to kill Bobby Seale. Ramparts said that last spring. Last spring it seemed that the American Movement was not willing to allow that to happen. "If they are bound up tight, we'll hold back the night and there won't be no light for days." The Black Panther Party says that occasionally. Most of us used to think that they meant it.

This winter, however, as Ericka Huggins and Bobby Seale sit in a courtroom watching their jury being selected, they watch alone. The State of Connecticut is systematically (and legally) eliminating Ericka and Bobby. A person must believe in capital punishment in order to serve. The state's attorney is very clear about that. And he has reason to believe that he can get away with it.

None of us are exempt from blame for the fact that, as the New York Times put it a little while ago, "all is quiet on the Green now." White radicals, confused and feeling impotent, are just now beginning to plunge themselves back into the war issue at home are more difficult to deal with. And the problems where political prisoners are concerned, is spread too thin.

Elaine Brown was here at the trial; members of the 21 come up once in a while, and Huey has come and probably will again. But that is hardly enough. Bobby and Ericka belong to all of us and their lives are dependent on all of us. It is easy to think that they won't really be executed in ten years. But, at a time when the American public is being primed for the use of atomic weapons in Asia, it makes no sense to underestimate the beast.

The jury selection can be very dull, especially when it is as prolonged as this one. After three weeks, and nearly when it is as dates, there are only three jurors -- two black and one white. But, as Charles Garry, Bobby's lawyer, has repeatedly said, this is the most important part of the trial.

There are only 30 seats in the New Haven courtroom -- on some days, there are not even 30 people to sit in those seats. And there are none outside, either.



WILL WE LET IT HAPPEN?

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GAYS GET TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON

(intended from page 14)

delegation under the leadership of Third World people and women which attempted to make contact with the Panther leadership at St. Stephen's Church on Saturday night and to present the 16-point program to the Panthers. This delegation gave gay people the experience of women and men, Blacks, Latins, and Asians and whites working collectively in a practical revolutionary context, though the chaos and crowd kept the delegation from completing its task.

The gay struggle was more than organizational. When several gay brothers acting on the slogan "Better blatant than latent" were refused service in the Zephyr, a social lily-white right-wing cabaret, quick action was taken by the whole gay contingent. Several carloads of gays returned immediately to the Zephyr. The restaurant's bouncers tried to get rid of us, but we fought back. Three straights suffered injuries (none of our people were hurt) and the restaurant was trashed, but a dozen gays ended up in the hands of the pigs. They are set to go to trial Dec. 23 on charges of destruction of property.

There was time at the gay center for a long rap about sexual role playing, exploring ways in which to identify the straight male supremacist, the dominating, competitive man which society has socialized in every man straight and gay, and discovering ways to off it.

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
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"I WANT MORE BODIES"
U.S. War Crimes Tribunal
By Jim Higgins
LIBERATION News Service

WASHINGTON (LNS) - "I heard General Westmoreland say in early 1967, 'The pacification program is out. I want more bodies.'

This, and the following items are taken from three days of hearings held here this week by the National Veterans Inquiry into U.S. war crimes.

Item 1: Prayer dedicated in 1968 by chaplain of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Black Horse Vietnam: "Help us O Lord to fulfill the standing order of this regiment. Give us the wisdom to find the bastards and the strength to pierce them." (Known among the 11th Armored as "The Prayer of the Body Count.)

Item 2: For Christmas of 1968, Col. and Mrs. George S. Patton III (Patton is commander of the 11th Armored and son of you-know-who) mailed out a card with a photo of stacked Vietnamese bodies, over the inscription, "Peace on Earth."

Item 3: Statement by company commander of 39th Combat Engineer Battalion in April, 1967: "I promise a 3-day pass to any soldier with a confirmed VC kill."

Item 4: "We came upon fresh graves. Dig them up," was the order. We found three bodies. It was impossible to know how death had come to them. One was a girl, about 14. Add them to the body count. was the order."

Item 5: "I was raised in a small town. I learned that democracy was good, communism bad. That lesson led me to Vietnam where I shot and killed an unarmed civilian, an old man, maybe 60 or so. I had never dreamed I could do such a thing. It was murder."

Item 6: "In the helicopter were two suspects, hands tied behind their backs. One was the victim and the other the target. The victim probably had no information for us, the target probably did. We play-acted questioning the victim. Finally two enlisted men were given the order, Throw him out. They did. He fell screaming. Then the target answered our questions. It was standard interrogation procedure."

Item 7: "It was Dec., 1968. We had five wounded prisoners. The Lt. told us to cut their arteries, let them bleed to death, increase the body count."

Item 8: Often, for fun and games, they tied prisoners to splash-boats of Armored Personnel Carriers and drove through rice paddies. The prisoners were drowned. More bodies.

Item 9: Statement by a West Point-trained former captain in Vietnam: "The war crimes - the mass murders, the tortures, the slaughter of prisoners, the smashing and burning of inhabited villages, the defoliation program, the napalm, the cluster bombs, and so forth - are not aberrant isolated acts. They are the logical consequences of our war policies."

Statement by a West Point trained former major and doctor (regimental surgeon general) in Vietnam: "The lives of the Vietnamese were considered insignificant; their deaths inconsequential. This was the pervasive attitude. Our policy is ant-humane and aimed at dehumanization and death."

About 40 veterans all honorably discharged from the service testified. One reason they did so, they agreed, was their conviction that the court martial of 1st Lt. William S. Calley, now proceeding at Fort Benning, Ga., was an effort to make Calley a scapegoat.

"The massacre of civilians in My Lai in March of 1968 was not Calley's responsibility," said a former West Pointer now on the staff of the Veterans Inquiry. "It was the responsibility of the commanders of the U.S. military. It was the responsibility of government policy."

The Inquiry was sponsored by the National Committee for a Citizens' Commission of Inquiry on U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam. Commission offices are at Rm. 1005, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010. The Commission, staffed mainly by veterans, was formed in November, 1969, after the disclosure of the My Lai massacre by a reporter who had talked with witnesses.

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"GURGLE, GURGLE, RRRRP, SST, WHIR, WHIR, CLICK:"
INAUDIBLE WEEK AT THE PANTHER 21 TRIAL

by Margo Adler
LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS) -- It is the thirteenth week in the conspiracy trial of thirteen of the Panther 21. The last ten days have dragged on so slowly that reporters duck out to the press-room. One establishment newsman is writing a play, and several rows in the spectator section remain unfilled.

While nine of the defendants have just ended their eighteenth month in jail, one full week was wasted while Judge Murtagh decided and re-decided on the admissibility of one scratchy, bleep filled, hour-long tape -- a tape almost totally inaudible unless greatly assisted by headphones, sophisticated electronic equipment and a transcript which took two weeks of preparation by the D.A.'s office, as well as by police agents and infiltrators.

Prosecutor Joseph Phillips has made it clear that the tape is essential to his case. He is hoping that the tape's contents, along with the testimony of Bureau of Special Services agent Gene Roberts will clinch

the prosecution's case against the Panthers. The tape purports to be a meeting on March 11, 1969 where plans to place bombs in department stores allegedly discussed.

The Panther 21 are charged with conspiracy, attempted murder, arson, attempted arson and possession of illegal weapons. The indictment charges two different "conspiracies": 1) an alleged bomb plot said to have resulted in several small bombings on January 17, 1969; 2) an alleged conspiracy to bomb the Bronx Botanical Gardens, department stores, railroad yards and police stations before Easter 1969.

"Why would the Panther party, which has sworn to defend the rights of Black people, want to bomb the very stores that Black people shop in?" defendant, Afeni Shakur, asked the jury in her opening defense statement.

The second series of charges, particularly the alleged department store plot, hang on the personal testimony of Bureau of Special Services (the Red Squad), infiltrator Roberts and the tape recording of the Panther meeting Roberts says he made. Roberts, posing as a Panther, claims that he had secretly strapped a microphone and transmitter to his body, while another agent sat in a car two blocks away from the meeting picking up his transmissions.

It was on November 17th that the prosecution first played the tape so the court could decide if the tape should be heard by the jury. The Panthers and their lawyers were given transcripts, but the spectators in the courtroom were not. Those that stayed did so out of loyalty and perseverance. Without the transcript the tape was impossible to hear. With the transcript only small portions were audible.

"Gurgle, gurgle, rrrrrp, sssss, rrpp, whir whir, whir click." The judge himself found it impossible to find his place.

D.A. Phillips: "Your honor, we are at the bottom of page 1."

Judge Murtagh: "All right, proceeding to page 2"

Phillips: "We're still on page 1, sir."

Murtagh: "Your honor I would respectfully suggest sir, that some of the defendants are making no effort at all to follow the transcript they are throwing things around over there, bouncing papers over desks."

Defense lawyer Sanford Katz. "Your honor: I think the rather transparent attempt to have the onus of this completely inaudible tape fall on the defendants is outrageous."

Defense lawyer William Crain. "I would like the record to reflect that its the feeling of all counsel and the defendants that the only things that was audible was Mr. Roberts, who, I believe, is a policeman and was at that time."

After several pages.

Murtagh: "Is this a fair sample of the audibility throughout?"

Phillips: "It gets better, sir, in parts and even better as it goes on."

Murtagh: "I must confess those pages are not sufficiently audible for me to present to a jury."

Phillips persuaded Murtagh to listen to some more. The tapes were played until page 19. Murtagh: "I have heard fifty percent of it and it's definitely not approaching the quality I must require."

Murtagh told Phillips he could present a brief in defense of the tapes, "But frankly," he said, "This is inaudible and that's the court's ruling."

For the next two days Phillips defended the tapes. The tapes take "getting used to," he said. And the defendants had disrupted the proceedings, causing the inaudibility. There were also legal arguments on both sides. Once understanding the importance of the tapes to the prosecutor's case, Murtagh agreed to re-listen, aided by headphones and superior electronic equipment. On November 24, Murtagh told the court:

"I will now say that the court is abundantly satisfied as to the audibility of all the tapes that it has heard... I have had abundant reasons to change my opinion in this regard from having heard this tape. I state for the record that the audibility is beyond question. This is not even a close case."

Defense lawyers called the statement a travesty. Murtagh, taking a cue from the D.A., said, "The lack of audibility at first hearing was in large measure due to the misconduct of the defendants."

The jury--provided with headphones as well as transcripts--listened to the tape on November 30 and December 1. The transcript contains the following:

Defendant King: "We have to get a plan (inaudible) get some stuff, because Lumumba said he could get us some explosives man" (inaudible 5 seconds)

Defendant Tabor: "When is Easter?"

Agent Roberts: "April 6"

Tabor: "Right on. Because April 6 was the day Bobby Hutton was assassinated."

Roberts: "It is, damn sure is."

Defendant Roper: "Yeah, right on (inaudible 3 seconds) I got to make up for little Bobby."

Without the transcript, none of this is possible to hear. With the transcript, a few of the statements can possibly be made out. But most is uncertain. Since the reporters have not been provided with headphones, it is impossible to know how audible the tape appears to the jury.

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death prosecuting life born
freedom slave today tomorrow
yesterday day before
O what a life I
have lived

Linda Curry, 14

CROSSING THE RIVER PLATE

by Lizardo Salazar

LIBERATION News Service

He was on his way to Buenos Aires to talk with the Australian consul, who no longer keeps an office in Montevideo (The representatives of rich white countries never know what's going to happen next in Montevideo.) I'm on my way to Buenos Aires because it's the next leg of my journey, and we share the inconvenience of having bought our boat tickets after the last sleeping berth had been sold.

So we sit in the straight chairs of the tourist lounge, anticipating the long, sleepless night across the River Plate. He is 36 years old, and, as he told me later patting his belly, 20 pounds overweight. He has small, sensitive eyes, a mellow voice, and a tired smile that suggests suffering too enormous to describe. After hours of mutual non-recognition, we engage.

"This thing doesn't move," he says.

"How can you tell?"

"He looks down at his feet, firmly planted."

"You can feel it!"

I become conscious of the engine's vibrations and try to read the meaning.

"I was in the merchant marine," he says. "Forty-three countries in fifteen years. Europe, India, the middle-east, United States, Canada. I never got to Japan. Some day I'd like to go to Japan."

"What about Africa?"

He shook his head. "I'm afraid of Africa."

"Afraid of what?"

"The wood. The wood's marvelous. Mahogany, ebony, everything you can imagine. I'd never leave."

He's a craftsman; but from the way he talks, I can't decide if his travels are just one long continuous quest for new experiences in wood, or if the wood is only a fortunate device to save him from the death of boredom on his aimless wandering from port to port. His mother's house in Montevideo is cluttered with carvings too dear to his heart to sell. And if he likes a place, or rather the wood of a place, he stays. He stayed nine months in Paris, sleeping under a bridge until he sold a carving of Napoleon for six hundred dollars.

"I worked on Montmartre, on the street with all the painters and sculptors."

"You're an artist?"

"What do you mean art st?" he says, spreading his stubby hands out in front of me. "With these hands? I'm a worker."

The lounge was very quiet. The bar and restaurant were closed; the strutting couples had retired. The young woman opposite us had pulled two chairs together, thrown a jacket over her legs and tried to sleep. We weren't halfway to our destination yet and the place already had a stale morning-after taste.

"I met an American in Paris," he says, "a nurse. I went to visit her in Pennsylvania but it didn't work out. Your country's no good for me. Everything is done by machine. The pay's good, it's a good piece of work too, but it's not the same as something done by hand. But I spent some time there. And Canada. I spent a year in Canada. It always happens to me that way. I go someplace for a week and stay a year."

And now Australia. He's got a brother there who says it's just fine. In fact, he's got brothers and sisters scattered everywhere, Minnesota, Los Angeles, Peru...half of the family are permanent exiles from their own country.

"There's no work, and what there is isn't worth it. I work three months on a table that they sell for \$250. You know how much I get. Ten dollars. After they sell it."

"But you get a salary."

"Thirty a week. But I don't work there anymore. You can't live on that. I work in a cardboard box factory now. Twelve hours a day. Eight to eight. The boss didn't want me to take time off now because we got a big order to fill. He figures when I walk out of that place he may never see me again."

"That could happen."

"It could," he said, with a mischievous smile. "But I worked like a bandit today. You know how many shoeboxes I cut today. Four thousand two hundred. I almost missed the boat. The boss drove me home. I do him a favor, he does me a favor."

"You run a machine?"

"It's a big blade. You slam it down, lift it up, slam it down. All day long like that." He looked up at me with those soft eyes and a kind of playful smile that I now recognized as the cue for a momentous announcement, like when he told me he was in the merchant marine. "But I got a secret," he said.

"What?"

"Hated," he said softly. "I hate that blade. All day long, as I come down on every stroke I think to myself how I hate it, and it makes it easier. It gives me strength."

"But you won't be working there much longer."

"I hope not, but you never know."

"When do you think you'll leave?"

"Depends on how long it takes to get the visa. There's a lot of people wanting to go."

"I think you'll like it there!"

"My brother says you can make a good living. There's all kinds of wood. I can always find something, even if it's only making doors. I'm going to one of the cities in the north, Sydney or Canberra, where it's warmer. The hardest part is leaving the dear mother," he said, as his glance slid away and he looked down at his feet.

When I get up to walk about he's sitting on the edge of the chair, his hands gripping the sides as he stoically faces the bitter half of the night.

I walk past people dozing curled up in halls wrapped up in coats and blankets, with the suitcases and bundles along the walls. The decks are empty. The high white moon lays down a path of light off the starboard bow, a path that fades quickly onto the darkness.

That way is America, think a country of shifting populations, of people driven by one kind of misery or another across borders that make sense only to those who benefit by them. Mostly they divide the cheap labor from the cheaper labor. Paraguayans and Brazilians descend upon Buenos Aires while the Argentines sail up to go to New York; thousands of Colombians cross into Venezuela every year and the starving millions of the Brazilian Northeast migrate endlessly toward the cities of the South; Mexicans move north to pick the grapes and onions and melons; and during the tomato harvest in New Jersey there are entire villages of Puerto Rico where you won't find an able-bodied man, woman, or child.

And from all the poor countries of the continent, doctors and scientists and technicians depart for those centers of wealth where their skills will be rewarded according to their expectations. What I wonder, with the system do when there are no more Australias left?

I walk once around the deserted deck and return to the lounge. My companion sits in the same position, stiffly at the edge of the chair with his feet flat on the floor. He doesn't speak or even lift his head until I sit down. Then he turns to me with that strange smile and a child-like glow, as if somehow he had transmitted a portion of his unspeakable anguish to the ship's controls and could therefore assume responsibility for the good news he was about to deliver.

"Now we're moving," he said.

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WHAT IS A NAVY WIFE TO DO YOU BEAR HIS NAME AND VALUES..."

All Hands Abandon Ship/LIBERATION News Service

I am a Navy dependent. At least the Navy likes to think I depend on them. They pay me \$100 a month to keep my mouth shut and leave my husband alone. I do neither.

Wives are bad for the Navy. We often upset the well-oiled military machine. We tend to undo the carefully executed brainwashing by regarding our husbands as men and not service numbers.

The process of turning a woman into a dependent is continuous. When a man enters boot camp he is told, "If you were intended to have a wife you would have been issued one." Recruits who are already married are warned to leave their wives at home for four years.

Unmarried men are given exaggerated statistics on divorce and are told that women are for one purpose...SEX. You can always get that so why get married? In the eyes of the Navy (some chaplains included) a wife is a highly paid prostitute no more.

When my husband graduated from boot camp, it was his mother and not I who was invited to the ceremony. This was only a preview of what was to come. On the bottom of his first set of orders to a five month school at Great Lakes he was warned absolutely not to bring dependents. There was a housing shortage and a wife would interfere with his studying. We found an apartment the first day we were there and my husband graduated first in his class. Had we listened to the Navy it would have been a miserable five months for both of us.

We were lucky enough to have some money saved so we could rent off base housing. Base housing is almost impossible to get, and rent in Navy towns is high. Moving costs money. If we had to live entirely on our \$200 a month we couldn't do it. For many couples the only alternative is for the wife to live with her parents.

What is a Navy wife expected to do while her husband is away? Smile, write letters, and have babies. The whole idea is to make a substitute for a husband, to become a contented cow. Where else can you have a child for \$25? Of course, after a couple has a baby it becomes impossible to live on Navy pay. Then the only feasible choice is to go home to Mom and Dad.

I recently visited a Navy doctor who was shocked that at the ripe old age of 22 I didn't have children. Even he couldn't tell me how I was going to feed them. No mention was made of the fact that they wouldn't have a father for the first three years of their lives.

The above tactics are only threats. Our husbands are told they can't get commuted rations; they can if they are persistent. Most of the time housing shortages don't exist. A service man is entitled to take his wife with him to almost every duty station. Who is to stop her if she makes an independent decision to come on her own?

There is more frightening restriction on the Navy wife. In every service wives' manual we are warned not to get involved, not to speak our minds. I quote, "Any credit or discredit on you reflects on him too...you do bear his name and represent his standards and values."

If we march in a peace rally it goes into our husbands records. Letters to Congressmen have a way of finding themselves in the Navy files. The military knows that we might be dedicated enough to continue our activities if they only affected us, but we will hesitate if we are aware of how hard we are making it for our husbands. In effect we are robbed of our identity as people.

What can we do? Forget the dependent mentality. Since we didn't sign a service contract the Navy has no right to dictate what we will and will not do. We can use our maiden names or no names at all so it will be difficult for our actions to be traced to our husbands.

It is obvious that our very presence makes the military uncomfortable. They try very hard to suppress us. Maybe they realize we have power that we haven't discovered yet. It's time we used it.

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"WHAT WOMEN'S LIBERATION IS ALL ABOUT"

LIBERATION News Service

The following note and news clipping came into the LNS office recently. We thought we'd share it:

Dear LNS,

Am sending this along to you just in case you missed seeing it. I'm sure you'll know what, if anything, to do with it.

I have a friend (woman) who has been fighting me all the way on women's liberation. It seems that the few women's liberation people with whom she's come in contact have been rather obnoxious people and, from what she tells me, one would hesitate to call them sisters. Anyway, when I showed her the enclosed "Dear Abby" column, she started crying and finally understood what women's liberation is all about.

(signed) Kathy

The clipping reads:

DEAR ABBY: Is there any way a married couple can get rid of a three-week old baby girl legally? We have a six-year old daughter and we wanted a baby boy so bad we prayed for one. I even used the alkaline-acidity method which was supposed to insure us positively of getting a boy, but I had a girl instead. All during my pregnancy I watched my diet and did all the things the doctor told me to do so I would have a healthy son, and when I had this baby girl I felt so betrayed and cheated.

I hate her. I do her laundry and feed her and keep her clean because she didn't ask to be born and that is the least I can do for her, but I will never love her.

I guess she knows she's not wanted. She screams every minute. If I am lucky, she may scream so hard she will choke herself to death.

I considered doing away with myself, but my six-year-old needs me. I also considered doing away with this baby, but I don't want to go to jail. My husband blames me for getting pregnant, but I was sure I would have a boy. Don't tell me that I will learn to love this baby. The only way I will love her is if she is gone.

I am 27 and my husband is 35. He deserves some kind of sex life, but I just can't accommodate him knowing I might have another girl. Does this make any sense to you at all. Please tell me what to do.

--UNHAPPY

DEAR UNHAPPY: Since your husband shares your feelings about the baby, together you should go to your doctor and tell him exactly what you have told me.

He will help you place your baby in a home where it [sic] will be loved and wanted. I urge you not to wait another day. And please write me again and let me know the outcome.

-- ABBY

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AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE MEET IN HANOI:

"PLAN PEOPLES' PEACE"

LIBERATION News Service

HANOI (LNS) -- Fourteen American students are now in Hanoi meeting with the Student Union of North Vietnam in order to draw up a peace treaty demanding that U.S. troops withdraw from South Vietnam. The students are representatives from the National Student Association (NSA).

NSA had also planned to send delegates to meet with the Student Union of South Vietnam and the Student Union's president Huynh Tam Mam. Mam has just recently been released from prison where he had been held for protesting the brutal repression of the Saigon government.

Nov. 24, when the student delegates to North Vietnam were safely in Hanoi, and as the delegates to South Vietnam were making final preparations for their trip to Saigon, NSA received a phone call from officials of the South Vietnamese Embassy in Washington. They announced that they had just received a cable stating "David Ifshin is under no circumstances to be given a visa to enter South Vietnam." Ifshin is the president of the NSA and the head of the delegation to South Vietnam.

When other members of the student delegation began arriving in Washington from around the country, they too were denied visas.

NSA then called a press conference to tell reporters that the purpose of the trip was to draw up a treaty between American and Vietnamese students (from both the North and South), declaring peace and demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of American troops.

"You might call this the people's peace," said Ifshin, who then told the press that the delegates also wanted to discuss the Saigon regime's policy of "brutality, torture, repression, and imprisonment in tiger cages." This is the first time that NSA representatives have been denied access to another country to meet with their counterparts.

Ifshin called Saigon's action a "calculated political move. Businessmen, American capitalists, get visas in a couple of hours."

The student delegates flew to France where they met with South Vietnamese students and members of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. After flying to Vientiane, Laos, where they made one more attempt to enter South Vietnam, they flew to Hanoi to join the other NSA delegation. The Hanoi delegates were led by Keith Parker, student president of Indiana University and a member of the Black Panther Party.

NSA has announced that they managed to smuggle a student representative (disguised as a non-student) into Saigon to meet secretly with South Vietnamese students.

Although the final details of the student peace treaty have yet to be worked out, NSA is going ahead with plans for a national student conference where the treaty will be ratified by student groups around the country. The conference is presently planned for Kent State.

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more...

INDICTMENTS COME DOWN IN BUFFALO

FREE THE COLD STEEL 3

LIBERATION News Service

BUFFALO (LNS) -- "It I'm a pig for wanting to protect my children -- peace, sink, go to night." Speaking was Henry Marcotte of WGR-TV, Buffalo's local television station, in the evening's editorial. This was not the first time the station had used its prime time to warn viewers that Buffalo's radical paper, Cold Steel, was having a dangerous effect on their children.

On Dec. 1, not long after Marcotte's warning, indictments were handed down by a grand jury, charging two members and one former member of the Cold Steel collective with criminal anarchy, incitement to riot, two charges of conspiracy, and five misdemeanors.

Buffalo, an industrial town of 500,000, is the home of Bethlehem Steel, Allied Chemical, Dupont, Chevy, and Republic Steel. Their plants depend on the town's high schools for a steady supply of workers. Cold Steel has been distributed in these schools since March, when the Niagara Liberation Front was organized.

The paper, which also reaches working class youth and students at the University of Buffalo, contains articles on tracking, the draft, abortion and medical care, and hard drugs, as well as accounts of third world and women's struggles. Four pages in each issue are devoted to "local news" -- on-going youth activity in Buffalo.

Two months ago, when a fight between two students (one black, one white) at Grove-Cleveland high school expanded to include other members of their gangs, the mass media called it a "riot" and blamed it on Cold Steel. The cover of the fall issue of the paper, entitled "Back to School" had been a photograph of a school building "on fire" -- (the flames had been drawn in)

It was this photograph which inspired the Dec. 1 charges of "incitement to riot." The "criminal anarchy" charge came from a passage in Cold Steel which the indictment ruled "advocated overthrow of the government of New York state. The two conspiracy charges were conspiracy to incite a riot, and conspiracy to engage in criminal anarchy" -- which explains why at least three people have been busted.

The Cold Steel 3, Nancy Clark, Steve Weiss, and former collective member Robin Levine, were released on \$2,500 each.

Their arrests marked the culmination of months of harassment by mass media and the police. Over the last six months, hawkers of the paper have been continually harassed and busted, and thousands of papers, still in their bundles, have been stolen before they could be distributed.

One of the defendants told LNS:

Cold Steel has been working with the Niagara Liberation Front in a city-wide anti-war campaign... We have a receptive audience of high school kids throughout the city. The political repression against Cold Steel is an attempt to suffocate the activists left in Buffalo.

This bust has shown us how close we are to the time when we will no longer be able to speak in an open way to large numbers of people. We feel a need to begin evaluating the methods of mass outreach we have now, and to begin to develop ways of reaching people, even during a period of no civil liberties. It is important for sisters and brothers around the country who have not yet been hit with this type of repression to realize just how quickly it can hit..."

The defendants' lawyers are attempting to get a federal injunction against the indictments on the grounds that they violate first amendment rights. For more information, contact the Niagara Liberation Front, Box 6, Norton Hall, U of Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.

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***** CHAVEZ JAILED IN LETTUCE BATTLE

SALINAS, Ca. (LNS) -- "Boycott the hell out of them," shouted Cesar Chavez as he was led away to jail, where the judge told him he would stay until he calls off his union's strike against the lettuce growers.

Over 2,000 farmworkers heard Chavez. They had stood outside the courthouse during the trial of the director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, many of them carrying the red and black UFWOC flag.

Larry Itliong, vice president of the union, shouted through a bullhorn to the crowd: "Today shows us that the growers can utilize their influence with the courts and the government to destroy the right of the poor and the farmworkers to have a decent life. But we won't let them stop us!"

The lettuce growers argue that they have already signed with the Teamsters. Many farmworkers, however, say that the contract was a "sweetheart," which means that it was an agreement between company officials and union officials with workers having no say.

Three lettuce growers have dropped the Teamsters and have signed with UFWOC, but this makes only 18% "union lettuce." UFWOC is using slightly different tactics against the lettuce growers than it did in its successful but four-year strike against the grape growers.

Although people are urged not to eat non-UFWOC lettuce, UFWOC no longer relies on consumer boycotts, but rather militant, well, organized specific pickets.

"When a truck leaves a supplier who handles non-union lettuce, it arrives at the store complete with pickets," according to one farmworker.

The night Chavez was jailed, union members set up a 24-hour vigil in a parking lot across the street. Farmworkers expressed concern for Chavez, who has not been feeling well lately and suffers from back pains.

"I will fast for the health of Cesar Chavez," announced one 57-year old farmworker, Modesto Negrete.

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***** RADICAL MEDIA BULLETIN BOARD, INTERNAL NEWSLETTER FOR LNS SUBSCRIBERS NOT FOR PUBLICATION: THE RMBB *****

From: Pham Duong, Nha Thong Tin Van Vu Viet Nam
Vietnam Dan Chu Conga Hoi (House of Culture
and Information of the Democratic Republic of
Vietnam) 29, Havelska Ulice, Prague 1, USSR
Tel: 22 55 84

Dear friends,

Since October we have received a regular service of your twice weekly packets of news which are a valuable source of informations about the progressive movements in the U.S. We hope to continue to receive them. In exchange, we will supply you with our information materials relating the struggle of the Vietnamese people (north and south) against the U.S. aggression; literatures, pamphlets, photographs, periodicals and papers.

We consider the struggle of the new American revolutionar generation to change the political system of the US (which is no longer the "model of democracy" as claimed the big monopolists and their followers, but a model of neo-fascism, and which could not be revitalized but must be overthrown), and to fight against the american imperialism (its aggression war in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, its imperialist policy in Asia, Latin America and Africa), as one of the decisive contribution to eliminate the source of all social, sexual and racial immoralityies and injustices in American society, and to safeguard the humankind from a permanent threat of imperialist wars.

In this sense we hope that the combative solidarity between the revolutionary people of the US and the Vietnamese people will be strengthened for our common cause, and our cooperation will be closer.

Yours sincerely,
Pham Duong

From: FIA, PO Box 336, Louisville, Ky, 40201

Dear friends,

We've been running little blurbs in some of the past issues of FIA asking those of you who have not renewed your subscriptions to do so as soon as possible. Very little money has come in so far. We do not keep books, so we do not know who owes FIA money for new subscriptions, so we must rely on the honesty of our readers. If all of you would send in \$5 or \$10 we would not have to write another letter like this for a long time.

As you know, we have closed the coffeehouse, but that does not mean we are non-existent. FIA still causes a large pain to the neck and other parts of the anatomy of Fort Knox's brass, and that means FIA is still effective. The GIs who get FIA at Fort Knox keep writing us, and their letters tell us they enjoy and need FIA. We still have to pay our regular monthly bills, and we have some debts we must yet pay from our \$10,000 bond and \$1,500 in court costs.

We need a new 16mm projector about \$150 and about 10 cassette tape recorders and tapes (\$100) for the guys to take on base with them. These have proved very effective in the past, and the reaction from the

men on base indicates to us that we must not only continue these educational programs but step them up.

The war in Indochina continues, and the Nixon administration is not fooling anybody with their empty rhetoric about "peace." Ask the men at Fort Knox, or at any other base about Nixon's "peace;" it's merely a decoy, and an M-16 and a ticket to Nam for about 75% of the trainees at Knox.

As repression is stepped up around the country, repression that we all feel on a day by day basis, the daily oppression of soldiers at bases like Fort Knox is continuous, with even less let up in sight for them. They must go out and fight the war that our taxes are paying for; and we are aware that 50,000 of these men have already died, and more will yet. But papers like FIA are providing a means whereby GIs can learn why they are being sent to Indochina, and who will profit, and many men have begun to say no, they will not go, and many more must follow.

We all realize that we can only have peace in Indochina when our brothers at Fort Knox and at other bases refuse to be Nixon's cops. When all GIs refuse to fight for Nixon's wars around the world, then we will have peace and no one knows this better than the GIs. It is to this end that FIA is struggling, and we need your help.

From: "The Great Speckled Bird, PO Box 54495, Atlanta, Ga. 30308

Dear sisters and brothers,

It's kind of a drag to take up this space with problems of national advertising, but there's really no other place. At the "media conference" in Milwaukee, it was decided that Concert Hall would drop their suit against Media A and that Concert Hall would give up its representation of the Underground to a new advertising collective. Not only has this not been done, but according to Bob England of Media A, papers and advertisers have been under heavy pressure from Concert Hall about going through Media A. It appears to be time for collective decision and action on national advertising. Please talk about it, and tell us what is happening. We'll report back here. Thanks.

Roger

From: Hard Times, Box 3573, Washington DC 20007

Hard Times is providing a bi-weekly column from Washington. Written by James Ridgeway, the column reports on developments in ecology, poverty, labor, police, etc. Further details are available from the above address.

more rmbb is on the next page. keep on writin'

From: The Eye of the Beast, 10702 Central Avenue, or P.O. 9218, Tampa, Fla. 33604

Brothers and sisters:

All over the country, our people are trying to get their shit together. Obviously, some places are further along than others. In the sunny south, those of us who think we are going in the right direction are making the same mistakes that others have made before us. We need help.

If the only revolution is the one in Boston, Berkeley and Chicago, then none of us are going anywhere. We are getting into a lot of shit, some good, some bad. Some of our troubles are unnecessary, we feel.

If you are cold up north or bored out west, we need you here. We are trying to get past the Trots, and pseudo-hip "non-activist" stage. We have created thus far: a free radical newspaper, a free kitchen that serves every day, a free store, and will have shortly a free university in operation at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

We invite all freeky weirdo revolutionary peoples to migrate south for a winter of fun and games. We haven't much to offer but serious freaks (too few) and good weather. We have plenty of hard work and need everybody. We can arrange housing and necessities. We need good teachers for our Free U. We need more newspaper and media people. We need medical people with plans on how to establish a free clinic. We need radical women especially. Everybody will be welcome.

Just come on down. We can be contacted at Eye of the Beast (see addresses above)

From: OPTIONS, Box 565, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101:

Brothers and sisters:

To the papers with whom we exchange (particularly Hundred Flowers, Tribe and Seed). We haven't published for over a month. That is why you haven't gotten our exchange papers. Please keep your papers coming. We should be back on our feet soon.

Any other papers who want to exchange, we will be glad to. We will send back issues and then, when we come out, send the new ones. Send us your papers. (We are basically a high school paper.)

FROM LNS.

There is a nearly out of sight women's calendar now available for 1971. Put together by two sisters and a lot of their friends in the Detroit area, the calendar has big pictures of women engaged in various aspects of oppression and struggle, mostly struggle. The calendar pages have room to write on too, and they are filled with graphics from the underground press, women's journals, etc. They make really good Christmas presents or just presents we want to give to our friends anyway.

(If mothers, your paper can also distribute them. Write to Women's Calendar, P.O. Box 149, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104. Individual copies are \$1.75 plus 10¢ postage. 1-10 copies (for distribution), are 95¢ each; 11-30 copies are 90¢ each. -lns

From: Up from Under, 339 Lafayette St, New York, N.Y. 10012

Dear sisters and brothers,

The Up from Under collective has noticed several of our articles reprinted in other publications. We would appreciate both credit and our address and sub cost (\$3.00 per year) whenever people reprint from us. We think it's a good practice in general to give the address of a paper when you credit them, so people can know where to get a copy or sub.

From: Parabough, 119 Beall, Nacogdoches, Tex. 75961

Help us break down the White Conservative South by running this ad in your paper:

BLACK HARASSMENT IN EAST TEXAS.. Dr. Stan Alexander's excellent essay on the racially tense situation here just before the May riots. Send 25¢ or more to PARABOUGH, 119 Beall, Nacogdoches, Tex. 75961 Subscription \$2 a year, free to GIs. Thankx."

PPS. Have you ever considered doing a quarterly index of LNs for both stories and grafix? Sure would help when looking up old stories or pix. Why don't you mention it in the RMBB and check the reaction!

What once was the Underground Civic Kaleidoscope in Sacramento, the capital of California, is now called OUTLAW, and can be exchanged with at this address: Outlaw, P.O. Box 2710, Sacramento, California, 95812 (916) 451-6222.

From: Frederick Downy Fifer, 1826 Fell Street, c/o Paul, San Fran, California 94117

A member of our staff has started to collect articles, news clippings, graphics, stories and such that show the uselessness of voting. It will be used to start a nationwide propaganda mill to encourage people not to vote in '72. The "mill" would collect material for the next year and duplicate it. All the materials would be available to any and everyone who either sends in material or sends \$1 and a request for material. Graphics are most important.

From: George Cavalcanti and Sheila Ryan, LNS correspondents, Poste Restante, Beirut, Lebanon

Sisters and Brothers, LNS printed "Diary of a Fighter" (#296). That version was incomplete: we will send a correct, complete xerox copy to anyone who writes us telling THIS IS THE END-RMBB / more

RED ROCK
Fifth Estate/LIBERATION News Service

What follows is an interview with the bass guitar player for Red Rock, the revolutionary rock band working with the San Francisco Mime Troupe. We're not using his name because he and Red Rock want to get away from "any kind of trip about individual stars." The band sees itself as a political collective, depending on group effort in all its work.

DO YOUR LYRICS REFLECT POLITICAL BELIEFS, SUCH AS WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND ANTI-WAR?

We have only eight tunes now, and we're not satisfied with the balance. We have a friend, Judy Abrams in Berkeley, who's going to be working on some material from a woman's point of view. Right now our lyrics are a little too heavily toward relating to the Black Panthers

WHAT OTHER KINDS OF LYRICS DO YOU WANT TO GET INTO?

We want more people to write lyrics. So far it's just been a couple of people mostly. We want to write more collectively, and have more things with people's experiences, not so much a slogan type of thing.

HOW MANY WOMEN ARE IN THE BAND?

Right now it's two women and five men, and we're trying to get more women into the group. We need a drummer, there are two drummers who haven't worked out. We're trying to get a woman drummer, if possible.

WHAT IS RED ROCK'S MUSICAL STYLE?

It's a variety, ranging from country to soul music to rock and roll.

WOULD YOU LIKE THE MUSICAL STYLE TO APPEAL TO BLACKS AND OTHER MINORITY GROUPS?

Actually the musical style is basically directed to young white people, although a lot of the lyrics relate to third world struggles.

HOW IS THE BAND GOING TO SURVIVE FINANCIALLY?

Our goal is to make a subsistence, somewhere along the lines of the Mime Troupe. They pay their members \$30 a week. So far we have very little money. We've been lucky -- we've been able to borrow some equipment and we rehearse in the Mime Troupe's warehouse

A concert we gave at Berkeley was 75 cents a person for the Mime Troupe play and the band performance. A fourth of the proceeds went to the Panthers. These are the type of prices we'd like to have, and we'd like to do a lot of fund-raising.

Every time the Mime Troupe plays, they give half what they make to the Panthers. A lot of times we'll be playing for free like when we played at Fort Ord. If there are places that have money and where we can reach a larger audience, we'd like to get what money we can. But the goal is subsistence

SOME BANDS HAVE TRIED TO GET INTO POLITICS, LIKE THE MC 5 WERE INTO POLITICS A LITTLE BIT. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM?

This is just my personal opinion. I sort of dug the MC 5 music but didn't take it very seriously. I found their show enjoyable, but I didn't think they were great musicians or anything like that.

I wasn't the least bit surprised that their career has taken the turn that it has. Because they never seemed clearly committed to any political kind of thing. Their image was half-created by the media, you know.

One thing we really want to do is get away from any trip about individual stars, and the idea that rock stars are into any special kind of perception of things, that they're privileged people.

I think the difference between our group and a lot of others is that some groups form and then become more political, but Red Rock started, well it started like people playing music together, but people who had been political beforehand. It was a consciously political thing.

DO YOU THINK THAT CONSCIOUSNESS IS GOING TO HELP A WHOLE LOT?

Hopefully it will. At least we know what problems we're going to come up with and when we play someplace, it's like a political question, you know. We decide accordingly whether or not we do it and under what conditions.

This problem came up recently. We were asked to play for an anti-smack campaign in Berkeley. We had heard it was a political approach, but it turned out to be a methadone-oriented thing. There are some people in Berkeley trying to develop a political anti-smack program, like the Black Panthers and other groups are trying to do.

HOW DO YOU RELATE TO THE CONCEPT OF WOODSTOCK NATION?

I would say that we're very critical of that idea generally. Speaking for myself, I think that there are class differences within the youth culture that are very important, and that they get passed over by defining all youth as one nation.

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GI KILLS VIETNAMESE BOY: THE PEOPLE RIOT

QUI NHON, Vietnam (LNS) -- Anti-American rioting raged in this central coastal city Dec. 7 and 8 following the fatal shooting of a Vietnamese high school student by an American soldier.

The Thieu-Ky administration ordered a 24-hour curfew, but demonstrations, window-smashing and the burning of U.S. military vehicles continued.

The demonstrators, estimated at between 2500 and 4000 by an AP reporter, are demanding that the soldier who killed the youth be turned over to South Vietnamese authorities

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"ROUTINE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS"

MEDIEVAL TANNER MURDERS 3

by Andree

Tribe/LIBERATION News Service

HUNTER'S POINT, CAL. INS.-- The Legallet Tannery in Hunter's Point, Calif. is located next to a dump, a school and a residential area. Its smell, the fumes, see the brown air and fires around the decrepit buildings is enough to make anyone sick. But to peek through the holes in the old, solid, tin fence is to see a horror movie come alive.

This tanning business is 99 years old, and has been in the present location for 30. Yet, in 25 years not one improvement has been made. The machinery is faulty, the floors are slimy and wet, the light and ventilation are poor, and everything in sight is covered with rust and acid residue.

Three large rusty tanks perch precariously on stilt platforms, resting at the base from the acid slime. These tanks contain various forms of sulphuric acid which is used in tanning. Sprouts leading from them drip directly on the ground. A Stanford University professor claims that because of poor conditions of these tanks, any small earth tremor would mean probable death to 20,000 people in the vicinity.

Within these confines, somewhere between 48 and 140 men are employed. They are Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Filipinos, Jamaicans, South Americans and white immigrants who hardly speak English.

Legallet is the largest single landowner in the Hunter's Point/Butcher's Row area, next to the government which has the naval facility. Legallet owns the tannery, Legallet Realty, Legallet Wood, Legallet Enterprises. They recently sold an amount of property to the Federal Government. In addition to that, the tannery has a large defense contract with the government.

This is the setting for the recent grotesque murder of three men and the near murder of a fourth who still lies in the hospital. Calvin Hubbard, a 45 year old black man and the "best mechanic we had" according to a fellow worker went down into the "Pit" to fix a leak. The "Pit" is a large dump which pumps all the used acids that run into it into the San Francisco sewer system. These acids give off noxious fumes which build up and are usually "disposed of." I wouldn't go down in that hole if they offered me all the money they had," said one worker.

Calvin evidently slipped and lost his gas mask, and called for help. Jose Medina a 25 year old Puerto Rican went in after him without a mask and was also overcome. A third man 41 year old Marcelino Yambo a Philippine went in after them and didn't come out. So they lowered Jose's older brother down on a rope, and he lasted about five seconds before they had to pull him out barely saving his life. The other three men were brought out dead. The coroner's report was that the men died of sulphurous fume poisoning. So far the

company has offered no compensation to the families of the men neither did they offer to pay for the funeral expenses.

The union hasn't done much to help either. By Monday four days after the murders, the union, Local 508, a Butchers Union hadn't even been down to the factory to check out the situation. The last time there was a strike was six years ago, when the workers were off for three months demanding a fifteen cent pay increase. They got it, but that was it. Immediately after the murders the workers went on strike again. This time they are demanding a fifty cent increase and a number of safety precautions.

At the first strike demonstration one worker described his career at the tannery. He has been a hide painter for 17 years and makes \$3.29 an hour. This is almost the highest wage in the place. Only foremen and forklifters make more-- 10¢ more an hour.

Very little appeared in the establishment press about these murders, most of the people from the community at the demonstration hadn't known about the killings until the day after they happened.

Two workers from the Southeast Poverty Program and a minister went to Legallet to demand that his facility be shut down until a full investigation had been carried out. He refused, surrounded by the security of his office and his personal bodyguards. So, the workers took the word to the community, door-to-door. The reverend took their demands to the Board of Supervisors. He was allowed a "floor privilege" and was able to make clear to the Board that the situation was bad. "There will be a riot," he said, "and it won't be a riot of blacks against whites. It will be an uprising against pigs like Legallet and negligent city officials like you."

The Board of Supervisors got scared and voted unanimously to shut down Legallet's sweatshop pending full investigation by the Bay Area Pollution Control Board, the Board of Health, and the building inspectors. But it remains to be seen whether or not this will actually happen.

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WANT TO EXPLORE THE WAR MACHINE?
BERKELEY MUCKRAKERS OFFER NEW REPORT

LIBERATION News Service

BERKELEY (INS) The Student Research Facility in Berkeley has just published a muckraking examination of the Military-Industrial-University-Congressional Complex. The 75 page report, entitled War Incorporated is chock full of facts that will interest anyone who seeks information about the militarization of American society and the rise of the Pentagon.

To get a copy send \$1.00 (65¢ in bulk) to Student Research Facility 2214 Grove, Berkeley, Ca. 94704. Also available "Betrayal of the American Dream" economic facts of American life (\$1.00 per copy 50¢ in bulk) and GI rights guide for 25¢ each. -30- Page 10 LIBERATION News Service (#50), December 9, 1970 more...

"WE SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH":
PEOPLE'S COURT TRIES NEW YORK CITY FOR
HOUSING CRIMES

by Gloria Colón
LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS) -- "Something very beautiful has happened this afternoon," said the Honorable Judge Iris Morales, of the Young Lords Party, as she gave her verdict in the Housing Crimes Trial of the People's Court held Sunday, Dec 6 at Columbia University.

Earlier, Chief Judge Durie Bethea, of the Black Panther Party, had declared the People's Court in session following a moment of silence in memory of Julio Roldán and for the Panther 21 and all revolutionaries who have died or are imprisoned.

Joining to present the indictment against the defendant -- the government of the City of New York, and co-defendants -- banks and landlords -- were remaining Judges I Liang Lee of I Wor Kuen (representing our Chinese brothers and sisters), Jane Benedict of the Metropolitan Council on Housing (which served as coordinator of the trial), and Jose Gutierrez of the United Puerto Rican Students of Columbia University (which served as its sponsor).

The Chief Prosecutors -- including members from the Young Lords Party, the Bronx Housing Crisis Coalition, the Metropolitan Council on Housing, the Puerto Rican Students Union, and a Puerto Rican community organization, El Comité -- then called on the witnesses for the people to testify.

Throughout the nine-hour trial, men and women, young and old, Blacks, Puerto Ricans and whites from groups of all parts of New York City came to testify (some with the help of translators) to having been brutalized and victimized by the accused.

A Puerto Rican man who shares a small Upper West Side apartment with his wife, eleven children and several relatives, spoke in Spanish about his "living" conditions: "We have to eat by appointment."

A Black woman who lives in a \$150-a-week room of a Welfare hotel described how she and her eight children slept on three beds. She had been handcuffed in the Establishment court that sent her children to "shelters" after she had decided to fight for decent housing.

Outside of Wollman Auditorium where the trial was held, a cold merciless wind was blowing; inside, the humanity that lives in the bowels of New York City huddled together and stated their case.

The defendants were found guilty on all counts for conspiring to maintain slum conditions, evictions, demolition of sound homes, soaring rents, criminal negligence, and racism, thus perpetrating genocide and mass murder of the people.

The Housing Crimes Trial sentenced the de-

fendants to death, to be carried out by the people with increasing day-by-day organizing in their communities, resisting urban renewal, refusing to pay rents, occupying buildings, and initiating survival programs in housing as a united front of all oppressed people.

The People's Court resolved to continue attacking the system at its foundation -- private property. Court was adjourned with its decision -- ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

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GEORGETOWN STRIKE: BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER

by David Nolan
LIBERATION News Service

GEORGETOWN, S.C. (LNS) -- A strike of tremendous significance to all sections of the movement is taking place in a small town in South Carolina, and is gaining strength in spite of an almost total blackout by the news media.

Georgetown, a town of about 13,000 people, is located 60 miles up the coast from Charleston. It boasts a couple of factories, a harbor, and some historic monuments.

Since early August -- for well over a hundred days now -- workers at Georgetown Steel Company have been on strike. Of the 500 workers who walked off their jobs, about half are Black and half white.

Georgetown Steel is a West German operation (German firms have been major investors in South Carolina industries in recent years), which takes a hard line against the rights of its workers. The National Labor Relations Board has found the company guilty of firing three men for union activity, and now the government is taking the company to court for its refusal to bargain collectively with the United Steelworkers local which received the overwhelming support of plant employees in a certification election earlier this year.

There are three particularly important aspects of the workers' struggle:

First is the fact that Black and white workers are working solidly together. Frantz Fanon wrote that before people know who the enemy is, they fight one another. But hostilities in Georgetown, once directed against "niggers" and "crackers," are now focused by workers of both races on the scabs, the owners, the power structure that supports them, and the police agencies that do their bidding.

Second, the workers are not fighting merely for wage increases; they are struggling around other basic questions of human life. One worker has been killed and numerous others injured because of the company's hazardous working conditions. A pale haze of air pollution hangs over Georgetown as the company's gift to the general population. Wages are artificially depressed -- they are considerably less, for instance, than the company's plant near Atlanta. This is related to the lack of a strong labor movement

in South Carolina.

Third, strong ties are developing between the strikers and some students at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. A busload of 35 strikers were recently barred by the administration from speaking there. Together with the students they leafleted the campus, and spoke with as many people individually as they could. Students have come to Georgetown several times, and are doing strike support work on the university campus.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, over a thousand people -- young and old, black and white, workers and students -- gathered at the union hall in Georgetown. Rev. Ralph Abernathy from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) flew in to join them. Together they marched past the plant, through the streets of Georgetown, to a Black church where a rally was held.

"Law and order," a union organizer pointed out, really means beating students, beating workers, beating blacks, and letting the company get away with murder. Abernathy directed criticism at South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond, who recently sponsored legislation to deny food stamps to striking workers, so as to starve them into submission.

Abernathy also criticized Senator Ernest Hollings, who has gained a national reputation as a hunger crusader by making speeches and writing books, but who is never heard from when the "working poor" are out on strike. Abernathy called on Hollings to come back and give concrete assistance to the strikers, "for we cannot eat books."

Prolonged clapping and foot stomping greeted a proposal for a boycott to force the local establishment to stand up for the rights of the workers. Georgetown Steel Company's president Wolfgang Jansen, a German who damns strike leaders as "outside agitators," drove past the church while the rally was in progress. It was a rare public appearance.

Jansen will have the opportunity to make another appearance on December 14 at the courthouse in Charleston, to explain why he won't bargain with his workers. "If Wolfgang doesn't show," said one of the strikers, "he'll be eating his sandwich out of a paper bag behind bars." It is a prospect that many look forward to.

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CONTINUED FROM BOTTOM OF RIGHT-HAND COLUMN.....

The FBI has already been called into the investigation, presumably on the assumption that sabotage has been done. You can be sure that they'll come up with something or someone; but it probably won't be that the Standard Oil Company had spent \$1.49 on a cheap safety valve when they could have bought a better one for \$1.98

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[FLASH: According to the N.Y. News, 12/8, probes found no trace of explosives at the refinery.]

ENORMOUS BLAST SHATTERS
N.J. ESSO REFINERY --
WAS IT SABOTAGE?

LIBERATION News Service

LINDEN, N.J. (LNS) -- Once its smokestacks poured oceans of roiling black chemical smoke into New Jersey's air, smoke made from the cracking of oil that Standard Oil sucks out of Venezuela. Now the Bayway Refinery (how much of its crude oil fuels B-52s over Vietnam and Laos) is a twisted square of shattered metal, charred vehicles, and broken, iced-over pipelines.

The explosion Dec. 6 broke windows as far as 40 miles away. In neighboring Elizabeth so many windows were gone that full-scale looting occupied the police all night long. Linden itself is a small town about ten miles from New York City, tucked inside a polluted inlet behind Staten Island. The night sky turned to day in the whole area as 1000-foot flames engulfed the Humble Oil and Refining Co. plant (Humble is a subsidiary of the Rockefeller-owned Standard Oil of New Jersey, which markets ESSO products.)

Several million dollars of damage was done to the refinery, one of the company's six largest plants. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages were done to homes in the area of the blast.

The Linden Bayway plant is the kind of atrocity that inspires sabotage. But it is still a very open question whether the blast, which injured thirty-eight people, was an act of anti-imperialist sabotage, or a dangerous accident for which Standard Oil is responsible.

Linden's Mayor John T. Gregorio says, "We're definitely thinking along the lines that it was sabotage." Local police have so far presented two pieces of "evidence" to that effect -- verified reports that a helicopter was flying over the refinery just before the explosion, and an alleged telephone call to police headquarters two hours before.

According to the police, the caller warned in a drawling voice that the refinery was going to go up, and "Burn, baby, burn!" The rhetoric of the supposed call, which was said to have ended "Get it, pig?" sounds like a line from a Grade B movie. Skeptical reporters asked the chief if his department has received many such calls which would be recorded similarly on the headquarters' new incoming call recording system. No, he said, we actually haven't taped any other calls. This new system has been in effect for three months.

The helicopter clue doesn't sound much more conclusive. The craft, silver with an orange stripe, was probably an innocent passer-by. It looked "like a cargo helicopter," a witness said. But even if the helicopter did do something to cause the blast, the question of the sabotage being done by radicals is still unanswered. Standard Oil says that doing a job on a refinery requires some very technical knowledge; besides, who on our side has a helicopter?

No acknowledged revolutionary group has taken credit for this instance of "material damage" to imperialism. A New York radio station got a call shortly after the blast from a group that claimed they had blown up the refinery. WINS said the group called itself the United Revolutionary Socialist Front. No one has ever heard of it.

[THIS STORY IS CONTINUED AT BOTTOM OF LEFT-HAND COLUMN]

SIX COMMEMORATING FRED
ARRESTED FOR "BOMB" CONSPIRA:

LIBERATION News Ser

NEW YORK (INS) -- On December 4, 1969 . . . Black Panther Fred Hampton was murdered in his home. Exactly one year later President Nixon was coming to town to assure the National Association of Manufacturers that the American economy was okay. An attempt to commemorate the anniversary of Fred Hampton's murder by disrupting Nixon's meeting at the ritzy Waldorf Astoria in New York City was squashed by police in the early morning hours of December 5.

Six women and men were arrested and charged with conspiracy to attempt to fire-bomb the First National City Bank at Madison Avenue and 9th St. The six are Sharon Krebs, Joyce Piecha, Claudia Conine, Martin Lewis, Christopher Treadle and Robin Palmer.

New York police claim that they had been watching the group as well as other延安 individuals since September. They allegedly had watched 20 dry runs to the bank and had developed a plan to nab the six if they actually attempted to bomb the bank. When their big chance came, the police, masquerading as drunks, moved the group away from the building and then arrested them. Martin Lewis was pulled off into Central Park and beaten before he was actually arrested.

Lawyers for the six have finally persuaded the court to grant the defendants bail. The judge had previously refused, claiming that the six would jump it anyhow. Relenting, he put the astronomical figure of \$250,000 on Palmer, who has a long history of political arrests, the others must only pay \$50,000 each.

Part of the lawyers' work has been to present a suit against Police Chief Murphy and Commissioner of Corrections McGrath for "generating hysteria" by labeling the group "Weathermen" as headlines reported the day after the arrests in the New York Times.

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STIFF RICO LAW USED TO
REPRESS DISSENT IN TENNESSEE

LIBERATION News Service

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (INS) -- Constitutional rights have not been suspended in Tennessee yet there is just a high price for exercising them.

One movement person, Peter Kami, has received two years in prison for writing a letter in January, 1970, challenging the President-elect of the University of Tennessee to "hand-to-hand combat." The letter was a guerrilla theater prop used to dramatize student-faculty dissent over their exclusion from the selection process of the new President.

Two thousand people gathered in front of the administration building last Saturday to support Kami in his challenge. The crowd jeered as he read the letter -- president-elect E. B. Tammie

and others in the jeep the challenge.

After 45 minutes of speeches, 20 or 30 students walked up to the door to enter the building file a complaint. "We did not intend to do anything illegal or disrupt," announced Gus Hadorn, leader of the march. "We just want them to know that we exist as human beings."

The small group was met by reactionary students blocking the door. A brief scuffle lasted 40 seconds which was revealed by a University film. Thirty minutes later the riot squad moved in clubs swinging to clear the peaceful assembly.

The 40 seconds of scuffle constituted a riot in accordance with Tennessee's new riot act. A riot is defined as "an assembly of three or more persons in which an act of violence occurs or the threat of violence is present." Because of this "riot," 22 people at the rally were arrested -- their names were culled from a list of politically active students. They were charged with felonies carrying up to 10 years in prison. Many of the 22 had not even been near the scuffle.

During Kami's October trial both defense and prosecution testimony established that he never committed an act of violence, and that he never encouraged others to do so; in fact, he opposed the move to the administration building and publicly urged people to leave the area after the initial struggle. But, as the D.A. argued to Kami's jury: "Something much larger is on trial here. By your decision you must show the world what the people of East Tennessee think of demonstrators."

On the basis of his letter, the jury found Kami guilty of intending to incite a riot. They recommended a two-year jail sentence. Defense motions for a mistrial have been turned down.

Two other men are presently serving six months each for their participation in the "riot," and a Black man who was one of those singled out for police brutality on Jan. 15 was sentenced to 90 days in jail for "assault and battery." Others have received fines for "blocking the door." Gus Hadorn comes to trial this January. The offense he is charged with carries a minimum one-year jail sentence.

* * *

There is a sense of helplessness in this city where police have a free hand to harass long-hairs and where the official "closed campus policy" of the University bars non-students from entering the campus and reading the student press. There is a sense of the totality of peaceful protest in a city where 10 people were arrested and charged with "disrupting a religious service" when Nixon visited the Billy Graham Crusade held in the University stadium last May.

The price for resisting this repression is continuing in Knoxville -- "A.T.V." After the violence died down in the remaining Knoxville (it was probably in late January), thousands of people were gathered in the streets of the business district that night -- exploited students, each

THE SOLEDAD
ONE LEGAL HASSLE AFTER ANOTHER

LIBERATION News Service

SALINAS, Calif. (LNS) -- The Soledad trial of Black prisoners accused of killing a white guard has been bogged down and the guardians of justice have decided they want more Soledad indictments. On July 16 at their trial in Soledad prison was K. and D. and since last Saturday 3 were safely locked away, the responsibility for the crime had to be put on the two prisoners' shoulders.

Right after the murder seven men - Phillips, Walter Watson, Jimmy James, Cliff Allen, Jimmy Wagner, Roosevelt Williams, Alfred Dunn, and Walter Watson were charged with the murder thrown into 7x5 solitary cells and repeatedly interrogated about the guard's death.

Before the seven's preliminary hearing, Soledad officials posted notices offering early parole and monetary rewards to any inmate who would testify against them.

Five months have passed since the murder and the seven brothers have sat in their tiny cells while the legal system crawled along at its own pace.

There has been one hassle after another about getting lawyers to represent the prisoners. Judge Gordon Campbell (the judge who was assigned to the Soledad 3 before their case was transferred out of Salinas) has refused to appoint the brothers' choice for their public defender, Patrick Hallinan. Instead, Campbell appointed Hallinan as the lawyer for only Jimmy Wagner and appointed court lawyers for the six other men.

Hallinan and five other lawyers came to the arrangement and asked to be appointed by the court in place of the five Campbell-appointed lawyers who did not really want to get involved and were not trusted by the seven. In California a prisoner who is convicted of killing a guard gets an automatic death penalty. The兄弟es on scene that day was so obviously tortured to railroad the brothers into the gas chamber that even the public defenders appointed by Campb. were angry. Each of them asked to withdraw from the case, recommending that the two lawyers who had volunteered along with Hallinan be assigned to take their place.

The judge refused to accept the argument that he did not "personally know the attorney and professional competence of these men." The public defenders agreed to reluctantly consent to the new lawyers and the new lawyers refused to take the witness stand for Campbell's refusal to allow this.

At this point Hallinan, who is a lawyer, proceeded, saying, "I am sorry, but I can't do for one of the defendants but you. I took it as my ethical and professional duty to refuse." Campbell cleared the courtroom and dismissed Hallinan.

Two days later the final pre-trial hearing was held. Campbell presided. Hallinan could not represent his client and six court-appointed lawyers joined him and withdrew from the case again. The big issue was whether either the brothers take their own living lawyers as their defenders, or else get the lawyers of their choice to take the case at their own expense.

Campbell had asked the brothers to enter guilty. The defense replied that without adequate legal time they could not enter pleas. Walter Watson was sick - that morning a guard had taken him out of the hospital to bring him to court without even checking with the doctor. Campbell entered pleas of "not guilty" into the record for all seven.

Monday Dr. B. Campbell gave in and appointed Hallinan as Jimmy Wagner's lawyer. But the fight still remains to represent all of the seven will continue and nearly. Next hearing is set for February 1. Meanwhile the seven remain in solitary.

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GAYS GET TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON

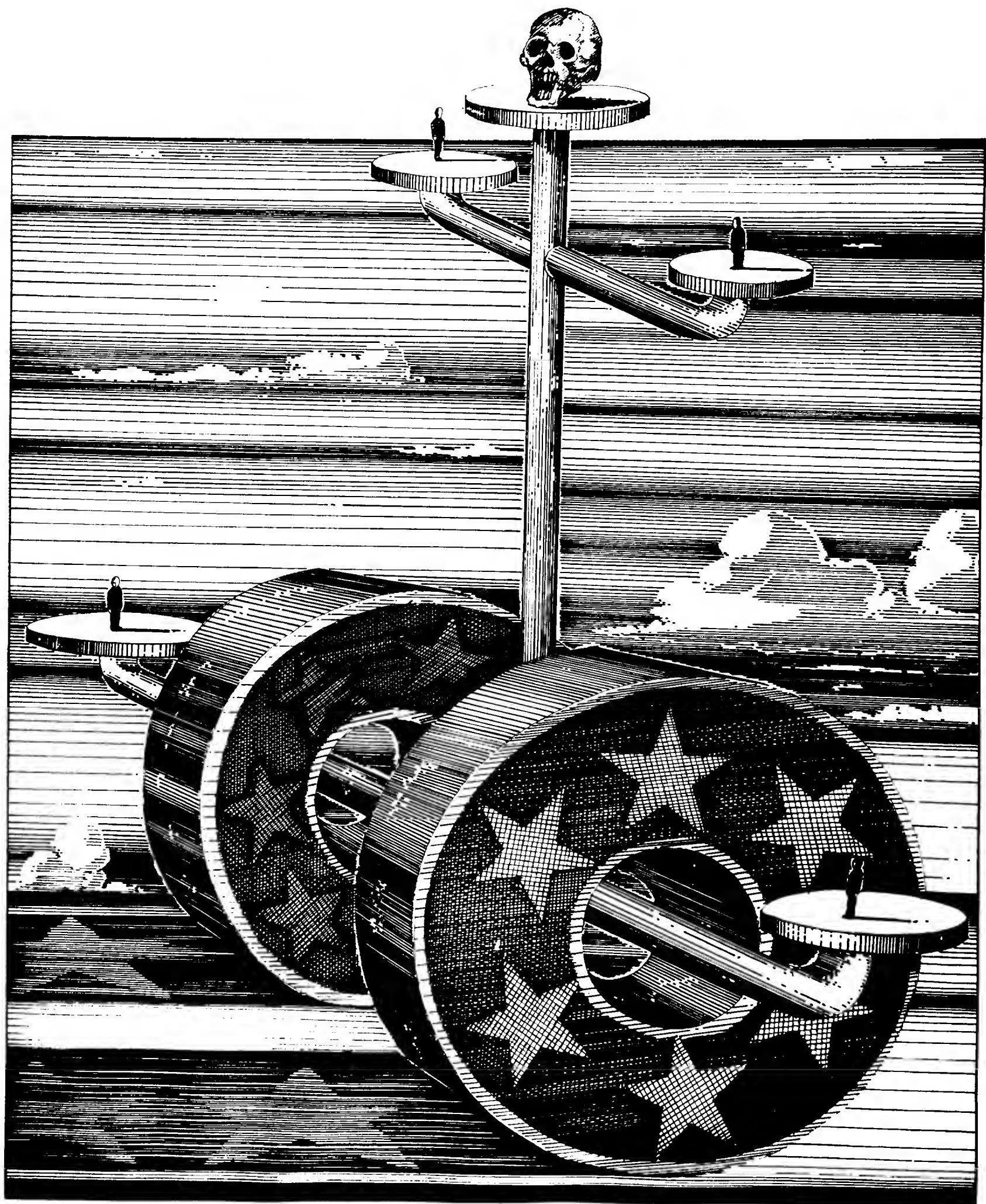
WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS) -- For gay people, the Revolutionary Peoples Constitutional Convention was the backdrop for the largest gathering of revolutionary homosexuals since the movement began a year and a half ago. A chapel at American University served as headquarters for more than 150 gay men members of the Gay Liberation Front, Third World Gay Revolution, Street Transvestites A' Folk Revolutionaries and other groups. Many lesbians were also present, some meeting with the gay men, others choosing to meet at the women's center. The majority of gay women stayed and met at Trinity Church, keeping the gay brothers informed of their intentions and actions.

The gay people came from all over the nation. This presence of gay people from so many places gave us perhaps for the first time a very high sense of national solidarity and of the need to relate beyond the limits of our regional chauvinism. Dan Smith of New York's GLF had crocheted 69 colorful berets which made the gay participants easy to spot. Our energy was also felt at the rally in MacArthur Park Friday night, when we danced, painted and sang. It was "Gay, gay power to the gay gay people sit thy pig" and "Go left, go gay, go pick up the gun!" One song was "We're here because we're queer," to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

At the gay gatherings meetings dedicated to the adoption of a gay platform for the constitution were uninterrupted for vital discussions of racism and sexism. The 16-point program of Third World Gay Revolution was adopted by the group as the basis of a national gay liberation program.

Aware of the growing confusion and lacking a political culture for meetings and communication among gay groups, the gay people struggled to find themselves at the convention and make their voices known. Gay people formed a 15-member

REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES FRONT (RPF)



Credit: Paul Spina/LNS

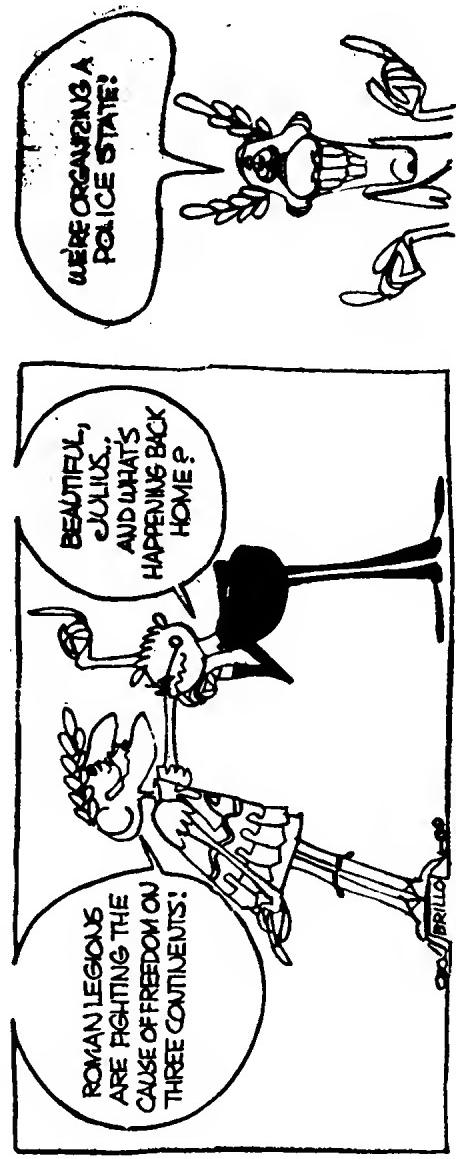
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"...AND SO, WE HOPE YOU
WILL JOIN US IN OUR
TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE
...HELP SOME POOR
CHILD HAVE A
HAPPY CHRISTMAS..."



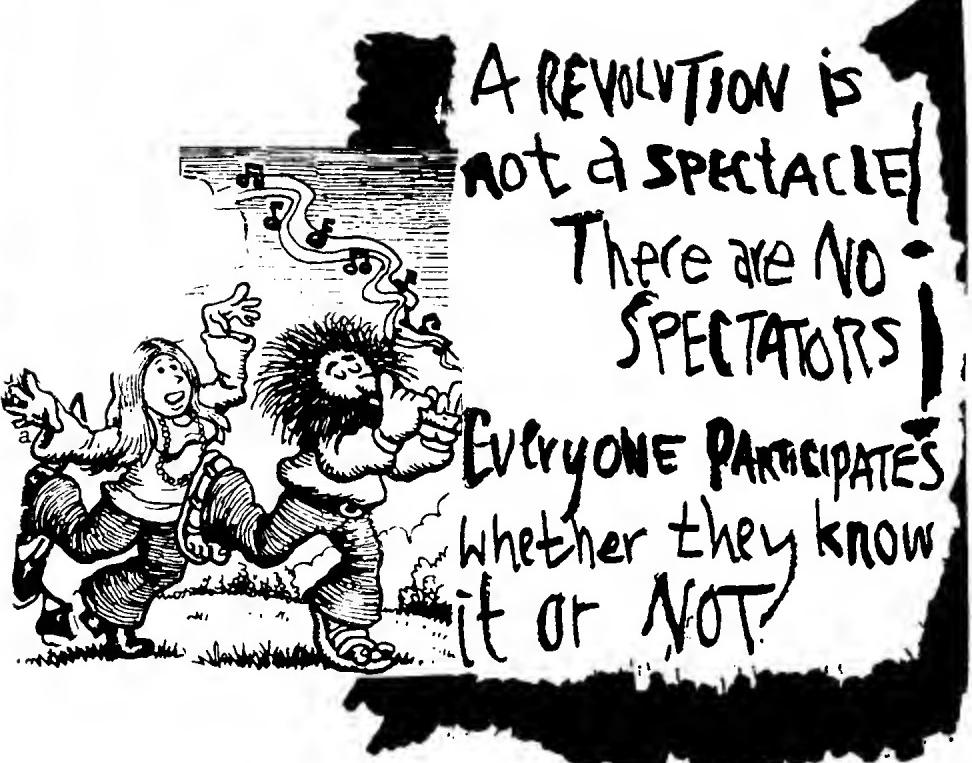
- OLSON



Top Left: Credit LNS

Top Right: Credit Rising Up Angry/LNS

Both Bottom Graphics. Credit Bill Olson/Virginia Weekly/LNS



Top: Credit LNS

Bottom Left: Credit The Daily World/LNS

Bottom Right: Credit Free Vermont/LNS



IV. Carol, in the park, chewing on straws

She has taken a woman lover
whatever shall we do
she has taken a woman lover
how lucky it wasn't you

And all the day through she smiles and lies
and grits her teeth and pretends to be shy,
or weak, or busy. Then she goes home
and pounds her own nails, makes her own
bats, and fixes her own car, with her friend.
She goes as far
as women can go without protection
from men.
On weekends, she dreams of becoming a tree;
a tree that dreams it is ground up
and sent to the paper factory, where it
lies helpless in sheets, until it ~~dreams~~
of becoming a paper airplane, and rises
on its own current; where it turns into a
bird, a great coasting bird that ~~dreams~~ of becoming
more free, even, than that-- a feather, finally, or
a piece of air with lightning in it.

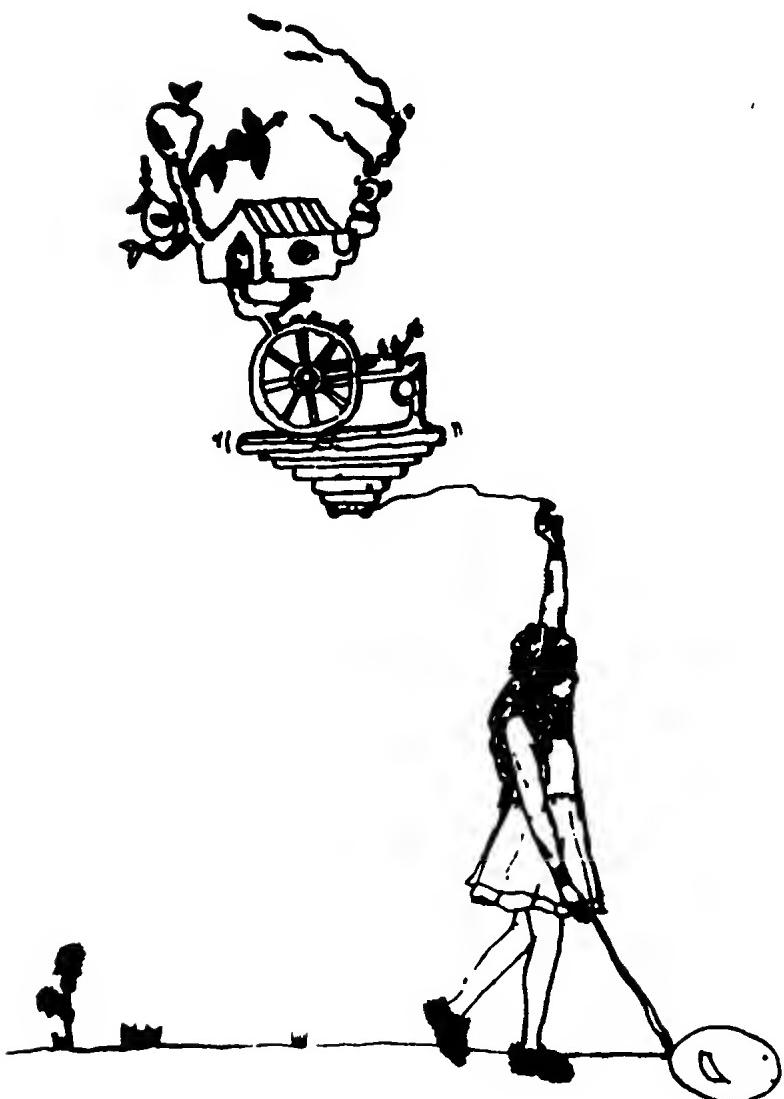
she has taken a woman lover
whatever can we say

She walks round all day
quietly, but underneath it
she's electric;
angry energy inside a passive form.
The common woman is as common
as a thunderstorm.

Judy Grahn



Dorthy Holmes
Spirs, go practice your speech
somewhere else!



TOP: POEM AND DRAWING FROM "WOMAN TO WOMAN"

BOTTOM LEFT: SECOND CITY/LNS

RIGHT: WOMAN TO WOMAN/LNS

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no more